

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 01226 101550Z

65-62

ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6449

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1226

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: MERCENARIES

1. PRESS REPORTS ON MERCENARY ACTIVITY IN NORTHERN ANGOLA AND OF THEIR RATHER CONSPICUOUS PRESENCE AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL AND OTHER WATERING PLACES IN KINSHASA HAVE BEEN, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, FAIRLY ACCURATE. THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT PURSUED CONTACT WITH THE MERCENARIES IN ORDER TO PIN DOWN THE SPATE OF STORIES NOW CIRCULATING. NEVERTHELESS, AS FAR AS WE CAN MAKE OUT, THE BULK OF THESE SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE ARE BRITISH-ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO REPORTS OF AMERICANS IN TOWN, NOTABLY THE RECRUITER FUFKIN. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTER ROBIN WRIGHT, WHO WAS IN SAN ANTONIO DU ZAIRE WHEN IT FELL, SAYS THERE WERE NO AMERICAN MERCENARIES THERE.

2. NEITHER THE FNLA NOR THE GOZ HAS SOUGHT TO CONSULT US ON THEIR PLANS FOR THE MERCENARIES. FOLLOWING MOBUTU'S ANNOUCEMENT BANNING THE TRANSIT OF MERCENAIRES THROUGH ZAIRE (KINSHASA 1087), ONE RUMOR HAS IT THE MERCENARIES ARE ON THEIR WAY HOME. YET ANOTHER STORY SAYS MORE ARE COMING. WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. WE BELIEVE, MOREOVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES IN BEING ABLE TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT WE ARE NEITHER INVOLVED NOR PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED. WE WILL HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 01226 101550Z

REMAIN ALERT TO ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD CAUSE USG

PROBLEMS - SUCH AS ARRIVAL OF AMERICAN MERCENAIRES.
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